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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/879,981
Applicant : Robert C. Covington, Jr., et al.
Filed : June 14, 2001
Group Art Unit : 2171
Examiner : Marcin R. Filipczyk

Confirmation No. 5066

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Docket No. : 11421/5
Customer No. : 23838

Technology Center 2100

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EXPEDITED PROCESSING REQUESTED

AFTER-FINAL AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.116

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are responsive to the Final Office Action (Paper No. 8) dated March 30, 2004, and are being filed within the three month shortened statutory period set by the Examiner.

Applicants have presented amendments and remarks to place the application in condition for allowance or in better form for consideration on appeal and the Examiner is respectfully requested to admit this Amendment for consideration.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10.